



# Eveline's Sunshine Cottage Newsletter

[www.evelinessunshinecottage.com](http://www.evelinessunshinecottage.com) October 2011 (806)372-3985



## A message from Eveline.....

Put yourself in the "mindset" of a single mom raising 3 wonderful children, sitting in the homeless shelter, and wondering where life will take her from there....and when! (Envision Life at the shelter... everyone in the family sleeping, living, and existing in one room with all of their limited possessions.) I was encouraged to visit with this family, and to formulate an opinion about the Mom and her children becoming a candidate for Eveline's Sunshine Cottage. I found a sweet, rather quiet Mom who had the "want" to have desire and determination to succeed for her and her family. She also had reservations about becoming too optimistic, that she would be able to "rise up "to meet the challenges that would face her on the long road to a college degree. On Halloween night, this Mom and her children walked out of the doors of the homeless shelter and into the warm, inviting environment of Eveline's Sunshine Cottage. The new environment was a far cry from drugs, alcohol, "unpopular" ways of making an income, and even the uncertainty of where the family would sleep the next day. As the months went by, I watched the children grow and thrive in the in their new surroundings, and I could see a new

person evolving from the sweet, quiet Mom. She showed confidence, contributing to many smiles on her face, and became pushed with desire and determination to do her best. Along her path to education she decided that she wanted to become a nurse. But her invitation into nursing school didn't happen as quickly as she had hoped. After seeing many tears and listening to a very dejected voice, I wrote a long letter to her to let her know that she definitely was on the right path, and sometimes that path goes in a "round about direction" in order to get to a destination....possibly to get from Amarillo to Dallas, you have to go in the "round about way" of New York City!!!! And reach her destination, she did! After 5 "life changing years of studying", and as she puts it, "I went from homelessness to and RN degree, a good job, and am off of the government support system". The lives of the children also are changed while living in Eveline's Sunshine Cottage...**With the role model from their Mother and our focus on youth and young adults education all the way through a college degree, we hope to break the generational poverty cycle.....**

## Broadway Show Pre Sale Benefits Eveline's Sunshine Cottage

Young Frankenstein, the new Broadway musical by Mel Brooks based on the hilarious film of the same name is coming to Amarillo for two performances. The Broadway Spotlight series is offering a four day presale with a portion of the

proceeds going directly to the Sunshine Cottage. Tickets will be available in person at the Civic Center, by phone at 806-378-3096 and online at [PanhandleTickets.com](http://PanhandleTickets.com) and will require the password "sunshine" beginning Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

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Jessica Welch is one of our outstanding Eveline's Sunshine Cottage mom's who graduated in May with her RN degree from Amarillo College. After much thinking on her part, she has decided to stay with us and obtain her four year degree in nursing. The additional education will help to open more "doors" of job opportunities. Jessica's three children are thriving in the "Sunshine" atmosphere, and soaking up the ideas of the importance of education. Congratulations to Jessica for her determination, desire and courage to "climb to the top of the mountain", and not let the stumbling blocks get in the way.

## The Story Starts Here.....

Needs List

- Large boxes – Tide**
- Clorox Bleach**
- Downey**
- Toilet Paper**
- Bounce Dryer**
- Sheets**
- Pine sol**
- Paper Plates**
- Paper Napkins**
- Kleenex**
- Liquid Dishwashing**
- Soap**
- Comef Cleanser**
- Windex**
- Brooms**

Improvement Needs

- Plant Grass**
- Automatic**
- Sprinklers Systems**
- Concrete Work**



“Mom had a bad day at her part time job, the professor in class was not getting the point across, the children got sick at day care, and the gas gauge in the car is on **Empty** and no money till Friday”..... We want this family to sense that once they walk into the apartment, that it will wrap its arms around them and make them feel that **tomorrow will be a better day.**

I am not a fan of" everything beige" so that it is, as they say.... neutral. If you take a tour of our apartments, and I hope that you do, you will see color on the walls..... yellow walls, white woodwork, pink bedrooms for girls, tan for boys, colorful upholstered sofas with throw pillows, fun window treatment, carpeted or tile floors, even hard wood floors due to original construction in some of the homes, nice bed covering and fluffy towels in the bathrooms. Yes, there is even a TV on the chest and a computer on the desk ready for school work. Sceptically you say," the apartment is great but they must have ample funds in order to do this so.... they don't need my donation". (Our board of directors has heard that statement) My personal motto is Faith, Hope and **Beg!** Garage Sales or people getting new furniture and letting us have the old are wonderful to us, decorators give of their time and energy to help us to turn the apartments from an apartment into a home,

Sunday school classes, painting contractors as well as individuals, freshen the walls, floor tile purchased at a greatly reduced price and put into place free, outstanding bed comforters donated, and the fluffy towels were purchased new and on sale. And the families in the apartments and volunteers help us plant the flower beds. We have put each apartment together on a "pennies on the dollar cost". Now visualize what I have just described to you and imagine a homeless family coming from the shelter and walking through their new home for the first time. The quote from the Mom was "when you are homeless this is the Taj Mahal". And the teenage daughter in this family, said "Mom this is the prettiest kitchen that we have ever had". (FYI—that Mom graduated with a 3.5 grade point in Nursing, and both of her teenage children are now in college .....breaking the generational cycle of poverty ...our objective!!!!) We are blessed to have a benefactor that has underwritten the cost of personalizing the last 2 apartments for new families and we are looking forward to additional donations. **Giving of your monetary means, you too can help us to continue to provide wonderful home settings for the Homeless to College Graduate families.**

**Share a Meal .....**

All nine of our families (and that includes 27 children) are swamped with studying during "finals" week. So in the past we have encouraged you to help with their "finals" week meals. That lightens the load of the Moms who are studying to make the best grades possible. From now until the first week in December, make casseroles and put them into your freezer, and then share them with us. The families thoroughly enjoy the variety and the easiness with which a meal appears on the table. Or if you chose not to cook, "Gift Cards" are great helping hands during the busy time of the year. (Fresh fruit and cookies can be devoured also).

**Choose a Families Christmas List.....**

Pick one of our families and be their Santa Claus. We have "wish" lists created by each of the children and each mother. The families range in size from 2 children to 5 children in a family. Living in Eveline's Sunshine Cottage does not make these children any different from all other children during the holiday time. They have dreams and wishes that they hope Santa might possibly be able to "pull out of his pack" just for them. Business offices, Friends, Families, Sunday School Classes etc. can go together and take one family...shop for them and envision the smiles that you have put on their faces on Christmas.

Thank you for supporting Eveline's Sunshine Cottage

\_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$50 \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_One Time Payment

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_Monthly Credit Card Payment

City/ST/Zip:\_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

\_\_\_Check \_\_\_Visa \_\_\_MC

Card Number\_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date:\_\_\_\_\_ 3 Dig SEC #\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Eveline's Sunshine Cottage\*PO Box 50974\*Amarillo TX 79159